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New Buffalo Times

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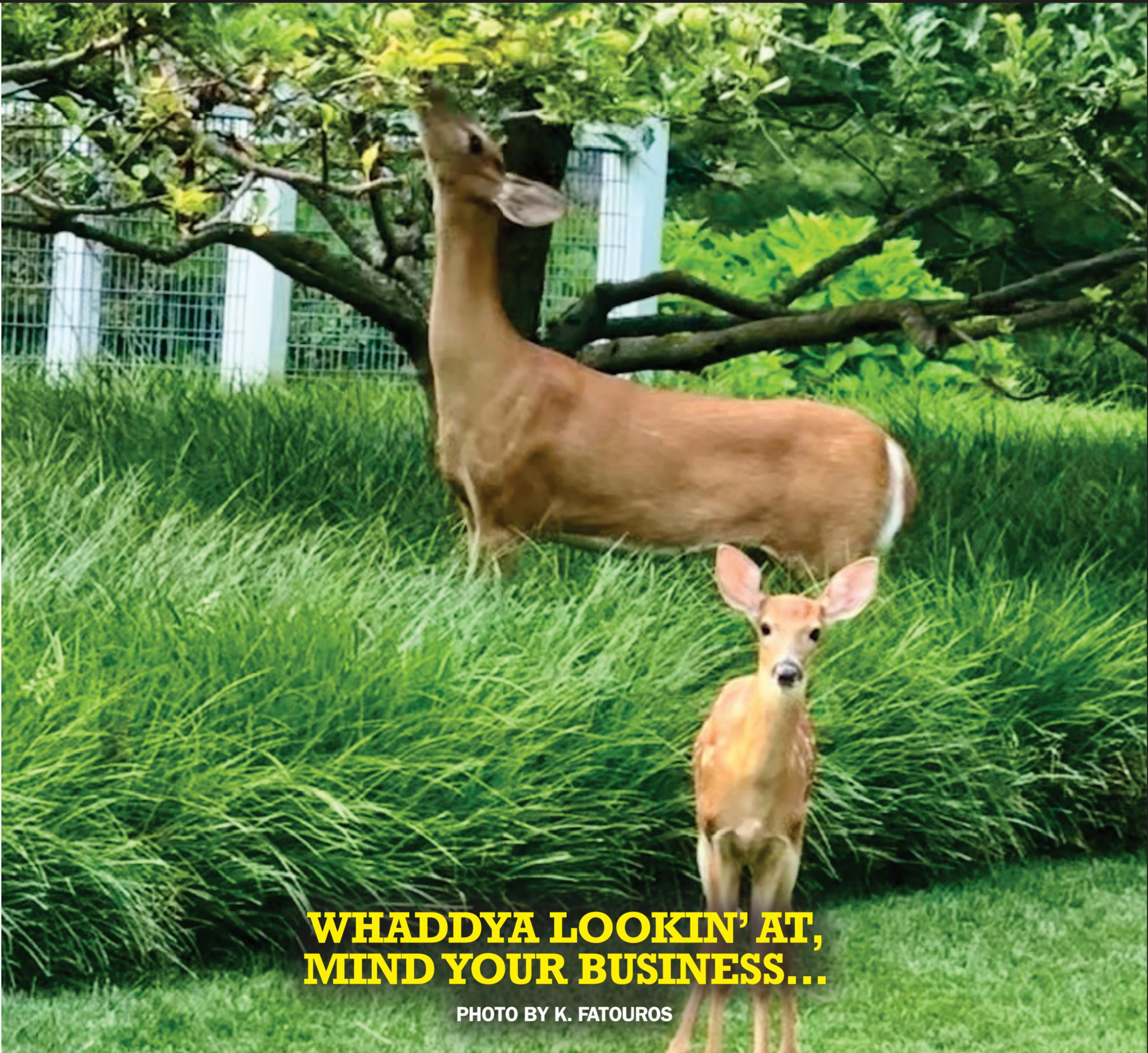
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PHOTO BY K. FATOUROS

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Region of Three Oaks Museum celebrates Deputy grant award

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

M

embers of The
Region of Three
Oaks Museum
(TRO TOM)

Board of
Directors

recently took
another big step

to prevent the
museum from

“drowning in

history” when they accepted a \$7500

grant award from the William J. Deputy
Endowment Fund, which is managed by

the Berrien Community Foundation to

help finance the expansion of the museum
Friday, July 21.

Crews from Oatsvall Construction of
Galien began working on the 1440-square-
foot museum expansion project, which is
needed to accommodate artifact donations
from the community, as well as large
items coming from storage at Michigan
State University and artifacts that have
been stored in the attic of the Three Oaks
Township library, on the south side of the
museum in late May and anticipate having
the new space completed soon

Deputy grants are given to Harbor
Country municipalities to help finance
civic improvements, with the Village of
Three Oaks applying for the grant on
behalf of the museum.

“The Village is very proud of the
accomplishments that they’ve had
here and we look forward to continued
growth,” Richard Smith, village president,
said.



**TRO TOM board members pose with the check
with Berrien Community Foundation
program director Susan Methany**

Nick Bogert,
board member
of the museum,
said that the
state inspector
had just
approved the
HVAC work
in the new
space, and it
was anticipated
that, earlier
this week, the
ceiling would
be put in. On
Friday, it’s

anticipated that the museum will be
receiving its large items from MSU: a
hand-carved undertaker’s wagon, sleigh,
and elegant carriage.

“We’ll move some of the larger items in
then,” he said.

The storage addition will
be climate-controlled and
feature state-of-the-art
archival shelving donated
by Michael Cavasin of
Professional Systems Installation of
Brighton, Michigan. Bogert said that
it’s anticipated that the shelving will be
moved in around mid-August. Through
his donation, Cavasin has also identified
10 stable shelving units.

Bogert said the museum is close to its
goal of raising \$104,000 for the expansion
and, as of July 21, has raised about
\$100,000. Other big grants have been
\$10,000 from the Berrien Community
Foundation and \$10,000 from The
Pokagon Fund. Most of the rest has come
from private donors, and the museum has
given \$20,000 from the museum reserve.

SUSPECT IN CUSTODY AFTER UNION PIER SHOOTING

According to the Chikaming
Township Police
Department’s Facebook,
at 4:18 p.m. Tuesday, July 25,
Chikaming Township officers,
along with the Berrien County
Sheriff’s Office and the Michigan
State Police, responded to a
shooting on Union Pier Road, at
the Union Pier Exit.

The incident started on
Interstate 94, eastbound, in New
Buffalo Township. After both
vehicles exited Interstate 94 at
the Union Pier Exit, the suspect
vehicle was in front of the victim’s
car when they both entered
Union Pier Road and headed
westbound.

The suspect vehicle stopped on
Union Pier Road and the suspect,
Demarkio Hubbard, out of
Detroit, got out of his vehicle. He
then fired several rounds at the
victim, who was sitting in his car,
striking the victim in the shoulder.

Hubbard fled the scene
eastbound on I-94. The Michigan
State Police and the Berrien
County Sheriff’s Office stopped
the suspect on I-94, eastbound,
at the 34 mile-marker.

Hubbard was taken into
custody and lodged at the
Berrien County Jail and has been
charged with assault with intent
to commit murder.

The victim is in stable condition
with non-life-threatening injuries.

— STAFF REPORTS

*There is no limit to beauty, no saturation point in design,
no end to the material. — Salvatore Ferragamo*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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CITY COUNCIL

MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI,
JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN,
VANCE PRICE

City Council meets on the 3rd Monday
of each month at 6:30PM

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month
at 5:30PM

NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD

PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT,
JUDY H. ZABICKI, PATTY IAZZETTO,
JACK ROGERS

Board meets on the 3rd Monday
of each month at 4PM

NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Meets on the 1st Tuesday
of each month at 6:30PM

SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY

L. Paul Bailey, Sheriff
Chuck Heit, Undersheriff

NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY

Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday
of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo
Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway
New Buffalo

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LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS,
DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER,
VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY,
GREG VOSBERG

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD

DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK,
LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN,
BILL MARSKE

Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd
Thursday of each month at 6:30PM

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Meets on the 1st Wednesday
of each month at 6:30PM

THREE OAKS

THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD

Meets on the 2nd Monday
of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday
of each month at 7PM

GRAND BEACH

Meets on the 3rd Wednesday
of each month at 7PM

MARY ROBERTSON, CLERK
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN,
JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR,
EDWARD BRANDES

MICHIANA

VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL

Meets on the 2nd Friday
of each month at 1PM

Grand Beach Village Council approves second Master Plan Survey

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

A second survey for the Village of Grand Beach's future Master Plan was approved during the Grand Beach Village Council's Wednesday, July 19, meeting.

In a 3-2 vote (James Bracewell and Blake O'Halloran were the dissenting votes), councilmembers approved the survey as drafted with changes discussed by the council as follows:

Add more to the initial paragraph about ways to fund the projects.

Remove the last paragraph but include painting the outside and insulating the inside of the maintenance building, repairing exterior trim and windows, and painting the trim of the Village Hall, repair, and replacement of the golf course irrigation.

Change question #13 to include language about the Social Club calendar.

Change #19 to show the cost for the sand traps of \$45,000.

Before the discussion on the survey, Master Plan Task Force Chair Diane Cody gave a presentation on it and questions that have arisen regarding it.

O'Halloran said he agreed with a resident that the survey should be delayed for two weeks.

Bracewell echoed other residents' concerns when he reminded councilmembers that, back in the winter, he stated that he thought the council should consult with a professional planner to create the master plan.

Councilmembers launched their efforts to create an updated master plan when they approved creating a Master Plan Task Force as well as appointing members to the task force in January.

At the January council meeting, council president Harry Walder said the goal of the task force, which will be a subcommittee of the Planning Commission, is to develop all the data for the master plan, to "assemble it as best we can" and that hopefully by August or September, an Request for Proposal will be issued and a consultant will be hired to "take that work that we did and put it into the proper format legally that satisfies state requirements for a master plan." Everything will then come back to the village council for its approval.

Opportunities for input from the community for the master plan would come from the survey, with the first survey already having been sent out earlier in the year and results being available on www.grandbeach.org.

The survey will be sent out to residents and is also available until Aug. 8 on the village's website.

Deputy Clerk Kathie Butler has been hired by the City of New Buffalo as its new clerk-treasurer. Clerk-Treasurer Mary Robertson will be putting ads out to hire a replacement.

Walder said a search committee will be formed to replace Robertson, who has Dec. 1 retirement date, and asked residents with human resources

experience to contact him.

Councilmembers approved authorizing Robertson to place ads for the replacement of Butler and to pay an hourly rate of \$22 to \$25 per hour depending on experience.

A 6.72% employer contribution to the MERS pension plan was approved.

Councilmembers approved \$2,700 to remove the damaged tree on Royal Avenue.

A contract with Browning Chapman for \$106,700 to repair the balcony concrete to village hall was approved. Councilmembers approved using \$45,000 in funds set aside for the repair, \$25,000 from funds set aside in Capital Projects for tables and chairs, and the remaining \$36,700 from fund balance in the General Fund. Work won't probably be done until the end of September.

Councilmembers approved not to purchase dog bag dispenser stations. Walder said that Butler, who's the president of the New Buffalo Township Library Board, said the library has received grant funding and plans to add a cabinet to the local history room and expand it. He said that the village has historical photos, postcards and other items that could be moved into the room, so more people could enjoy them. Councilmembers agreed to discuss it at the next meeting.

The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled.
— Plutarch

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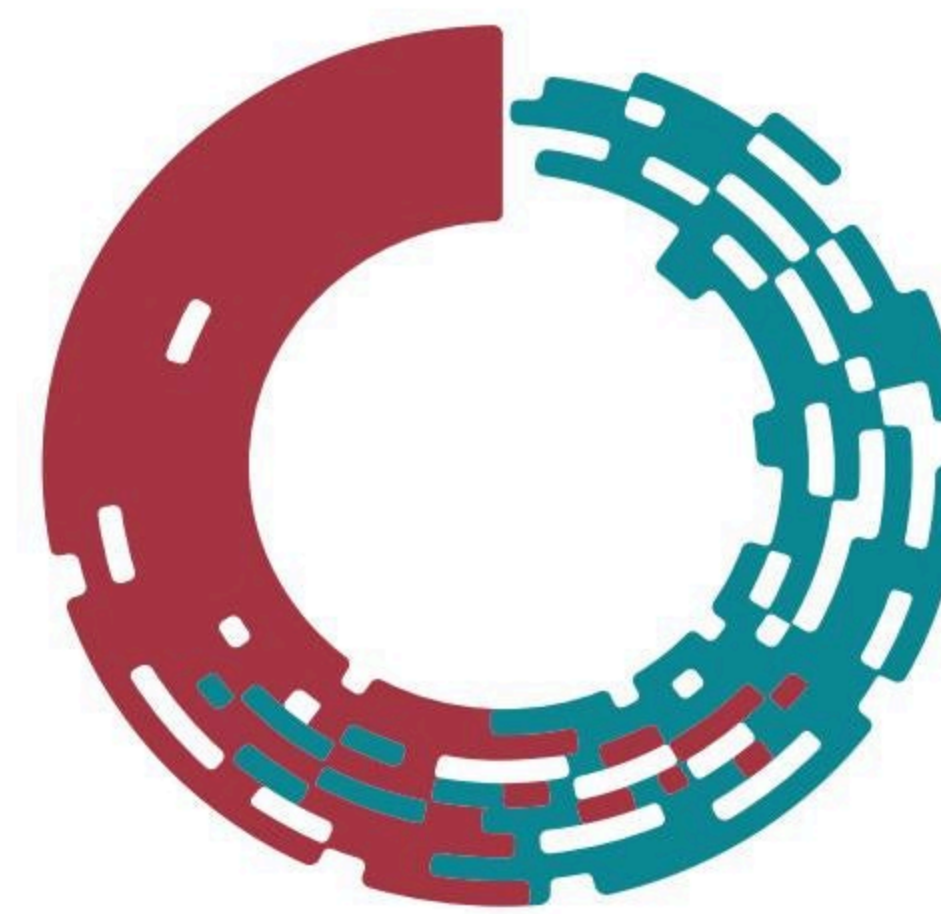


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FLOAT,

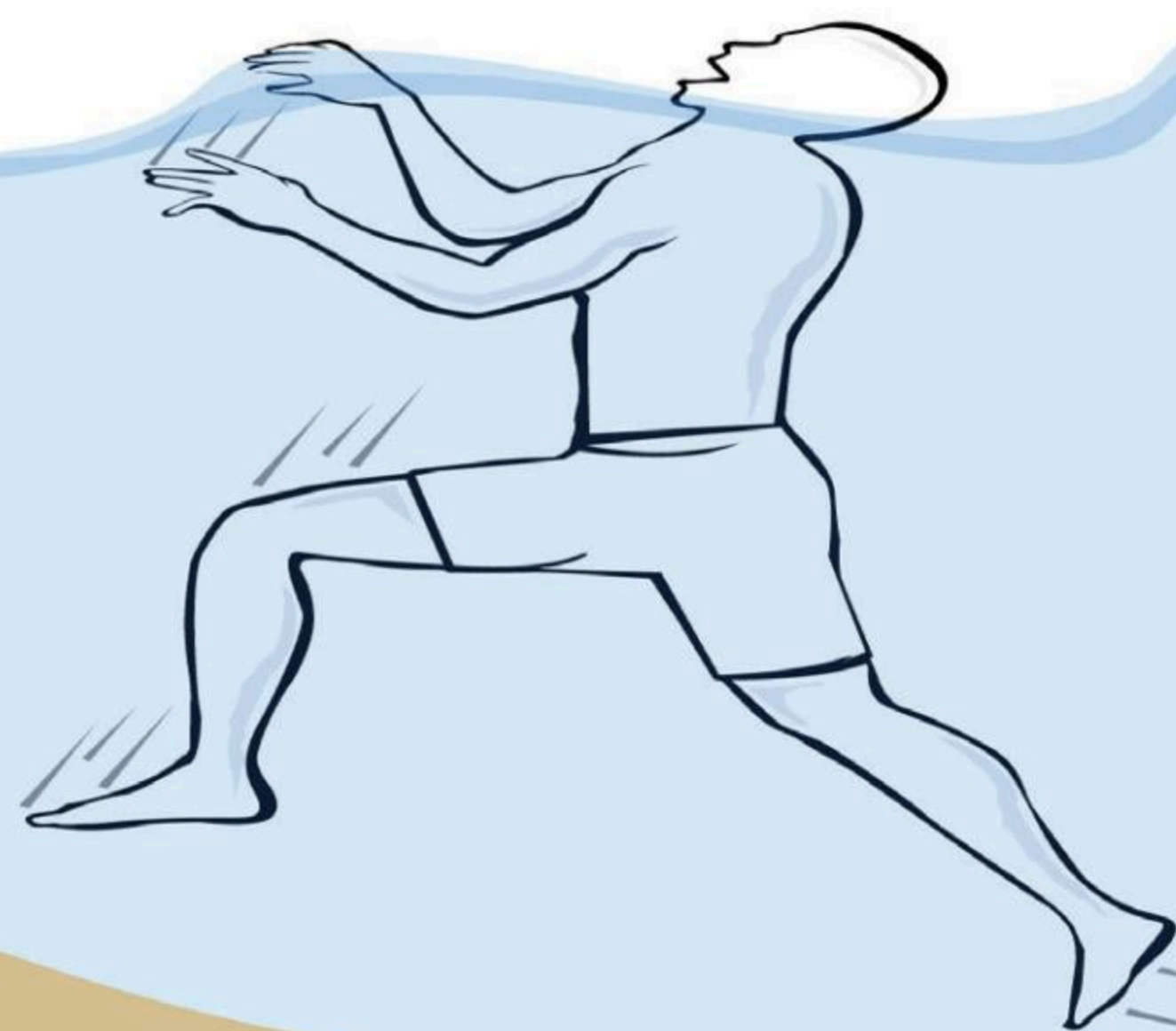
Float to:

- Keep head above water.
- Calm yourself down from fear and panic; don't panic.
- Conserve your energy.

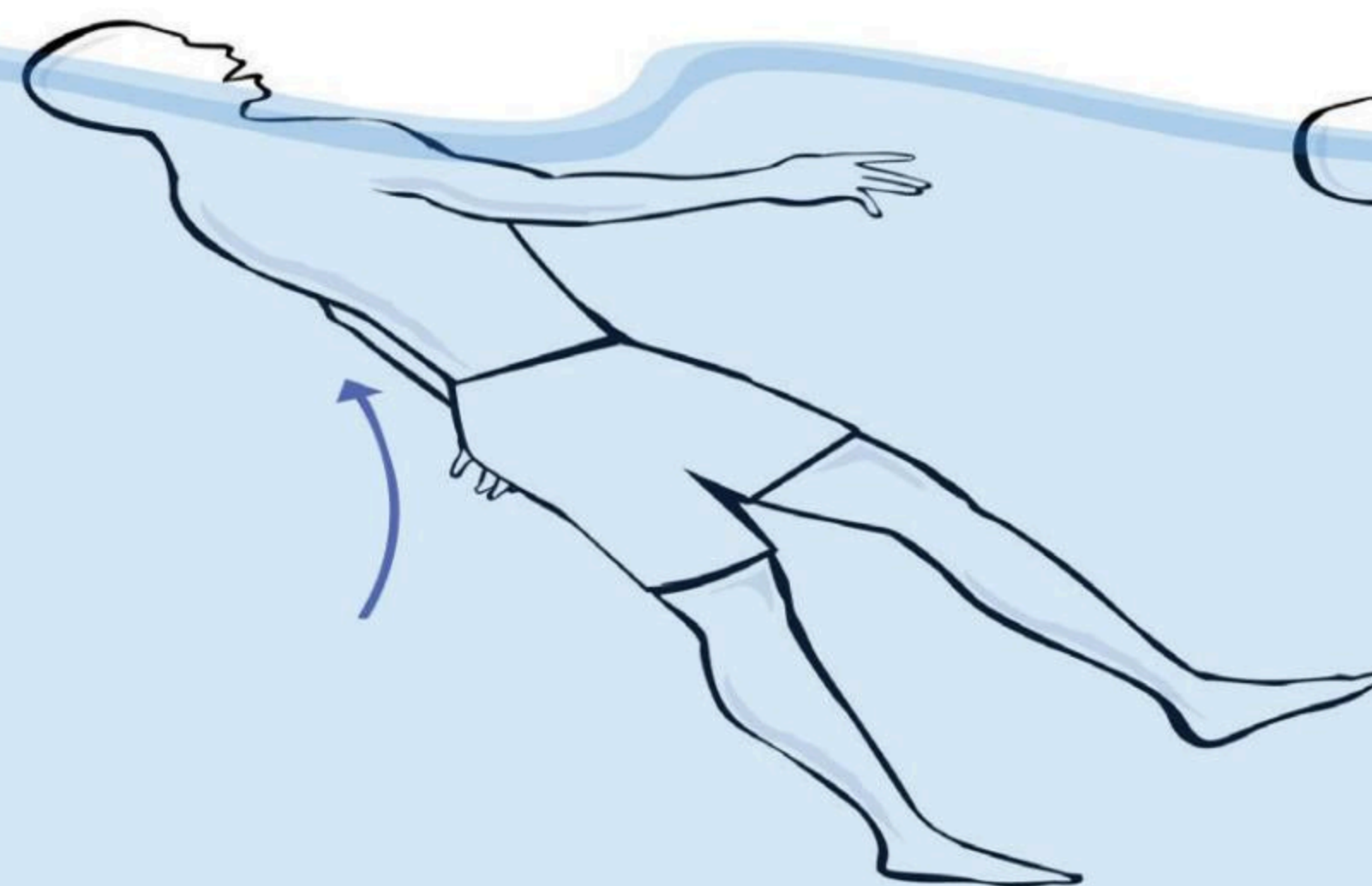
AND FOLLOW!

Follow the safest course to safety:

- 1 Do not fight the current.
- 2 Follow the current to assess which way it's flowing. Swim perpendicular to the flow.
- 3 Too tired to swim, continue floating and try to signal for help.



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SCHOLASTICS

New Buffalo school board receives elementary kitchen/cafeteria remodel update

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education started their Monday, July 24, meeting with the swearing in of new board member Jennifer Summers.

Summers was elected at their last board meeting. She will finish the term, which ends November 2024, that was left empty by Brad Brunner.

Board members heard an update from Micheal Galovan, senior project manager of TowerPinkster, with regards to the elementary kitchen and cafeteria remodel.

Galovan said the new design is going to match the metal panel on the entry that was put in on the outside of the school as well as the brick and glass.

The project began in January 2022. Since then, there've been design meetings and concept reviews as well as interactions with Patti Iazzetto, food services director, and her team to come up with an "comprehensive, all-inclusive design."

Galovan added that 14 team members are working on the project. The kitchen piece will be about 850 additional square feet of what the school has now, with new equipment and finishes.

Fire alarms will be replaced throughout the building, and there will be a dish area and dish return.

The project also involves adding onto the cafeteria and picking up another bit of square feet of footage there with about 80 seats.

There will be new finishes throughout the cafeteria, including

Board members accepted the resignations of high school special education teacher Brooke Kaufman and high school Spanish teacher Rebecca Marfia.

The New Buffalo Area Schools Daycare Handbook was approved.

Board members approved the additional designation of Lori Gramelspacher to issue work permits for 2023-2024.

Board members approved changing the time of board meetings to 6 p.m., which will go into effective for their Monday, Aug. 14,



Jennifer Summers is sworn in by business manager Pano Arvanitis

new ceiling and lighting and flooring. An office will be created for the Bison Afterschool Enrichment Program, which will include a walk-up transaction window.

Budget information from Skillman puts the project at \$4.5 million; however, more information will be known after the project goes out to bid this month and bids return next month.

The project will commence in the spring and be completed next fall. Galovan said the details need to be worked out with the school district on how students will continue to be fed throughout the process, as it's not a three-month project that can be completed within the span of a summer.

meeting.

Board president Lisa Werner said that the executive committee will serve as the sports co-op committee, which will also include herself and athletic director Matt Johnson. Recently, meetings were held to explore the possibility of merging two additional sports with River Valley: girls' basketball and softball. Werner said that the River Valley school board was meeting that night to also form a committee with board members.

The two committees will meet at New Buffalo in September to propose a co-op handbook.

Due to timing, Werner said that they won't be able to co-op in basketball this year.

TEXT AND
WHATEVER

JUST
DON'T
TEXT
AND



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SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

The MLB trading deadline is August first. The teams that think they can make the playoffs will trade some of their best young minor league players to teams for major leaguers that can help them now. The White Sox will be trading for young players while the Cubs are kind of stuck in the middle, not sure yet which way to go. They won five of their last seven and are now only three games under .500 and 6.5 games out of first as of last Sunday night. The Cubs play the White Sox twice, Cardinals four times, and Reds once before the trade deadline and if they win five or more of those games,

I'm guessing they'll go for it and trade some of their kids. Personally, I hope they hold onto their kids and trade a couple of their players for more youngsters. Marcus Stroman is having a great year and loves Chicago so if they trade him, they may be able to re-sign as a free agent next season. Cody Bellinger is playing so great that I hope the Cubs keep him and sign him to a multi year contract.

The Cubs have made a lot of moves at the trade deadline in recent years. They got rid of World Series hero's Anthony Rizzo, Javier Baez, and Chris Bryant for youngsters that haven't made it to the majors yet, but are very promising.

Last year they tried to trade Wilson Contreras but the Astros backed out at the last minute. Those four, plus others, had performed admirably for the Cubs, but their best years seem to be behind them, so the team did the

right thing.

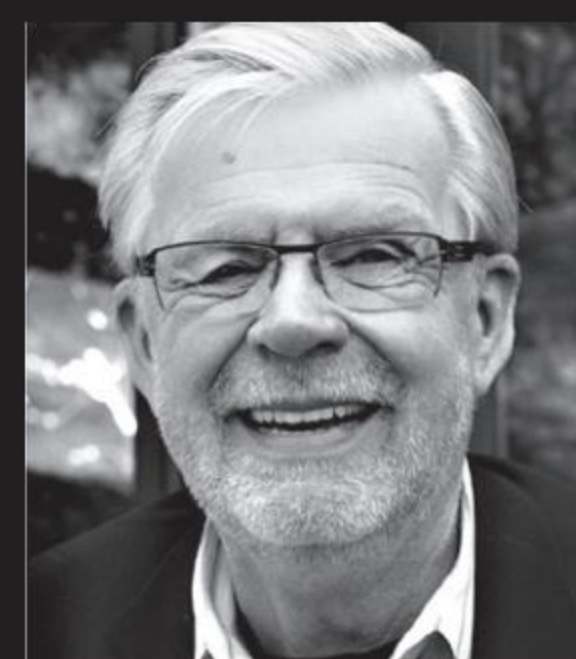
On the other hand, the Cubs traded Dylan Cease and Eloy Jimenez to the White Sox for Jose Quintana and that turned out to be a terrible mistake. Every team makes some good trades and some bad ones, but if the team is going to remain competitive, it must develop most of the players on their team themselves. Drafting and trading for the right young players keeps the payroll from getting out of hand. Acquiring players that are already good ends up costing too much and unless you're the Dodgers or Yankees, is not sustainable.

I think that baseball needs two major changes. Fans should have a seat at the bargaining table with owners and players for without the fans, the game will eventually be forgotten. Also, to even the playing field a bit, there doesn't need to be a salary cap, but being fan friendly, there should be a cap on the price of beer, soda, and hot dogs. Without the immense profits on food and beverage's, owners would have to be more fiscally responsible.

Congrats to Pat Hughes, the radio voice of the Cubs, on his enshrinement into baseballs hall of fame. Well deserved Mr. Hughes

Desmond Tutu said, "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.



Youth fair still exhibit deadline appraoching

The deadline for still exhibits to be registered for the 2023 Berrien County Youth Fair is Aug. 1.

Entry forms are available at the Fair Office, Berrien County public libraries, Baroda City Mills in Baroda, Country Heritage Credit Union in Buchanan, Family Farm and Home in Benton Harbor, Tractor Supply Company and Rural King in Niles, Seifert's Farm Supply in Three Oaks and Tractor Supply Company in Stevensville. The Exhibitor Handbook is available online at www.bcyf.org.

Registration is open to any Berrien County resident, ages 5 to 20 years of age. The exhibitor age is as of Jan. 1, 2023. Online registration is free for all departments. Once registered (each year you will create a user name and password – it can be the same as last year's), exhibitors can return to the program and add more entries up until the deadline. Families can register under one e-mail and password. The exhibitor's printed email confirmation will serve as the traditional yellow copy of the entry form and is required on entry day, just as the yellow copy of the traditional entry form is. The link for online entries can be found at www.bcyf.org.

Entry forms may be brought to the Fair Office between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday on or before Aug. 1, postmarked on or before Aug. 1 or placed in the drop box outside the fair office until midnight on August 1. The Fair Office will be open Tuesday, Aug. 1, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to accept entries, but exhibitors are encouraged to get their registrations in early.

Other upcoming deadlines include the Berrien County Youth Fair Baked Fruit Pie Contest, which is open to adults and youth (see specific rules in exhibitor handbook for each class' age requirements) and the Still Exhibit Auction registration, which is open to current year BCYF exhibitors (see exhibitor handbook for details). Registration deadline for both the contest and the still exhibit auction is Aug. 1.

No late registrations will be accepted. Questions can be addressed by contacting the Fair Office at 269-473-4251. Berrien County Youth Fair dates are Aug.14-19 with the theme "Summer Safari." — STAFF REPORTS

*I never think about the play or visualize anything.
I do what comes to me at that moment. Instinct.
It has always been that way.
— Lionel Messi*

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Ad Council

Mental health treatment ordered for alleged Taylor Swift stalker

BY STAN MADDUX

A La Porte County man accused of stalking and threatening Taylor Swift has been ordered to undergo mental health treatment before further prosecution of the case.

Mitchell Taebel, 36, of Long Beach has been placed into the care of the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction until his condition improves enough to be deemed competent to take part in his defense.

La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan said his commitment was in response to the findings of more than one court appointed mental health professional after they independently evaluated the defendant.

He said the prosecutor's office along with the defense went along with the recommendation.

"We signed an agreed order of stipulation that Mr. Taebel is not competent to participate in his own trial," he said.

Fagan said the goal is for Taebel to understand his alleged criminal actions at the time and be capable of helping his attorney mount a defense so the formal process of determining guilt or innocence can resume.

"Do you know what happened then? Are you fully aware of what's going on now?," he said.

Taeble is charged in La Porte Superior Court 1 with level 5 felony stalking; level 6 felony intimidation along with invasion of privacy and harassment, both misdemeanors.

According to court documents, symptoms of his alleged obsession with the pop music superstar beginning March 25 included a 10-hour marriage proposal video he posted on YouTube.

There were also messages he left on her official Instagram account stating things like "he would happily wear a bomb if he cannot be with his soul mate" and "shoot ourselves if we had to" if they could not be together, court records disclosed.

According to court documents, there were also electronic messages from Taebel expressing a desire for them to meet along with threats to harm Swift and her dancers on stage if they carried out certain performances.

The pictures he allegedly sent to her included one of a man holding an AR-15 rifle.

On May 5, police said Taebel traveled to some luxury condominiums in Nashville believing Swift was there and while claiming to be a famous television show host asked security to let her know he was in the lobby.

Police were called and he allegedly fled.

According to court documents, he later went to Nissan Stadium in Nashville where Swift was scheduled to perform that evening and got as far as a VIP area when asked to leave from being on a list of security threats.

After returning home, he allegedly posted a message wishing death for people who think it's illegal to go to where somebody lives to see if they want to meet.

Police said he also maintained thoughts of him being elected President and Swift becoming his First Lady.

According to court documents, Swift's management team was alarmed enough by his alleged actions to seek a temporary restraining order, which was served to Taebel on May 13.

He allegedly violated the order by posting more messages about Swift and tagging her on social media, court records disclosed.

Taebel has accounts dedicated to Swift on YouTube and Facebook.

Fagan said the case is on hold indefinitely because of the unknowns involved in how long each patient responds to treatment.

"It really just depends on a bunch of things not in anybody's control," he said.

New Buffalo Library to consider music at the House of David in Community Forum

The New Buffalo Library will present a program about music at the Israelite House of David at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 1.

In the early 20th century, the musicians of the Benton Harbor religious commune entertained the American public and, along with their storied exhibition baseball team, helped publicize their group with music. In addition to being a mode of religious expression, music at the House of David was a serious commercial enterprise.

All but forgotten today, the colony was once synonymous with music, and for more than 50 years its well-

known professional bands (orchestras, marching bands, choral groups, string bands, jazz ensembles and swing-era big bands) entertained visitors at its amusement park in Michigan and played to packed audiences in concert halls and Vaudeville theaters across North America.

Brian D. Carroll, PhD, historian and archivist for the Israelite House of David, is the guest speaker, and all are welcome to attend this free event. The New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo. The Community Forum series is sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library. — **STAFF REPORTS**

The Lakeside Association's ice cream social to raise money for scholarships

What is summer without ice cream - and what is better than ice cream and cake in our beautiful Lakeside Park?

Go join the fun at the annual community tradition, the Lakeside Association's Ice Cream Social, which will take place from 5-7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, at the Lakeside Park Gazebo at Lakeside Road and Red Arrow Highway.

Mix and mingle with neighbors, friends and family while enjoying homemade bake goods and ice cream. This year, the Rotary Club of Harbor Country will again join the Lakeside Association in partnership to raise money for local high school scholarships.

Just \$5 gets you ice cream, homemade cake, cookies, and more. There will also be live music by The State Street Five featuring summertime melodies and sing-along favorites for young and old.

Kids can try their luck at the Fish Pond and win a prize. And of course, there will also be the traditional cake auction, where Harbor Country's best bakers contribute delectable items that are sold to the highest bidder. All proceeds going to the Lakeside Association Scholarship Fund benefitting high school seniors in the River Valley School District.

For more information, visit us at www.thelakesideassociation.com or call 312-305-0496.

The social is sponsored by The Lakeside Association of Harbor Country.

The Lakeside Association is a long-standing organization that invites residents to participate in their community through holiday parades, the Ice Cream Social, Garden Walk and History Walk.

Volunteers from the association also help maintain the Lakeside Park, a restful green space in the village center.

— **STAFF REPORTS**

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Texan Andrew Delaney named 2023 Singer/ Songwriter Competition winner

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Upon finishing his performance of “Midnight” at The Acorn Center for the Performing Arts’ 11th annual singer/songwriter competition Friday, July 21, winner Andrew Delaney packed up his things because he thought he had no chance placing in the top three.

At least, this is what Nikki Gauthier, The Acorn’s artistic director, heard is what he did between rounds one and two in the competition.

“He thought, ‘Okay, this is done, I’m finished’ so his guitar was put away and everything and then he’s like ‘What? I’m in the top three?’ and then ‘What? I won the competition?’” she said.

Peter Carey, who emceed the show, added that he also said “I’ve got to call my wife.”

Delaney was born to a Chinese-American family in Houston and currently resides in Arlington, Texas. An unorthodox writer and storyteller, he was once called “The Alfred Hitchcock of singer/songwriters” by Rich Warren of WFMT Radio, Chicago. In 2017, he was the winner of the Songwriter Serenade competition in Moravia, Texas and has been a three-time finalist in the storied Grassy Hills New Folk Competition at the Kerrville Folk Festival.

Delaney proved himself to be unorthodox performer to The Acorn audience by presenting himself as not only an accomplished singer/songwriter but quite the comedian as well, as he joked about how, for his “own safety,” he and his three theater friends hung out with the goth “subgroup” in small town Texas.

Noting that audience members probably could figure out that he’s “mentally ill person,” he revealed that, along with suffering from depression, he’s Bipolar Type II - which is “the fun one.”

Bipolar Type II is typified by hypo-mania - “the single best feeling in the universe,” Delaney said.

“You just feel it sliding up and your like, ‘Oh, I’m going to get lot done this week - it might not be stuff I wanted to do but I’m going to do it,’” he said.

Judge Lance Werner said that Delaney is someone who’s “very authentic and original” and “not someone I’ve seen before,” adding that he also can “make people smile.”



Maggie Kubley performs during the first round



The judges watch the performances



The 2013 winner James Neary returns to the stage



Reece Sullivan performs during the second round



Winner Andrew Delaney performs during the first round



Priscilla Sabourin, the 2019 winner, makes an appearance with Drew Stolz



Stone and Snow perform during the first round



The top three performers line the stage



The audience chooses the winner



Nikki Gauthier interacts with emcee Peter Carey



Kelly Hoppenjans opens the show

Judges chose three singers/songwriters from the first round to perform in the second one: Delaney, Reese Sullivan and Stone and Snow. The decision then lay solely in the audience members' hands, as they voted on their phones at The Acorn's website for their favorite.

The second place went to Stone and Snow and third place was awarded to Sullivan.

Named "Best Folk/Soul Artist" at the 2022 Richmond International Film + Music Festival, Stone & Snow is an Americana pairing of songwriters and multi-instrumentalists Karen Bridges and Clint Thomson and currently resides in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Originally from Arkansas, Sullivan now lives in Lafayette, Louisiana, and has gone from playing piano to guitar, to classical to art rock, to art rock to folk, to flat picking to finger-picking and to solely songwriting to performing. He released his latest full length album, "Gethsemane," this year and plans to release another album, "False Summits," sometime towards the end of the year.

Other finalists included Kelly Hoppenjans, an indie-rock singer-songwriter from Nashville who's now based in Ann Arbor; Sarah King, who creates versatile Americana music and hails from Ripton, Vermont and Maggie Kubley, a solo performer, songwriter, comedian, writer, storyteller and video artist from Plymouth, Indiana.

Judges were Abbie Thomas, an independent singer-songwriter who appeared in The Acorn's 2019 Singer-Songwriter Competition; Donnie Biggins, a singer/songwriter from Oak Park, Illinois, who's a member of Chicago's The Shams Band and owner/operator of Chicago music venue, Golden Dagger as well as talent buyer for The Acorn and Lance Werner, a music concert producer in Southwest Michigan and Northern Indiana who lives in La Porte

Gauthier said the finalists gave the judges a "really hard time" this year.

"I truly expect The Acorn to continue to partner with each of our six finalists on endeavors in the future so if you see any of their names on our website coming back here for a show please fill the audience for them, please show them your love," she said.

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Wife claims self-defense in murder trial

BY STAN MADDUX

The first witnesses were called Tuesday, July 25, in the trial of a La Porte woman accused of fatally shooting her husband and dismembering his body.

Thessalonica Allen, 36, formerly of South Bend, is charged in La Porte Circuit Court with murder, abuse of a corpse and altering the scene of a death, both level 5 felonies along with two level 5 felony counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and two level 6 felony counts of neglect of a dependent.

Her husband, Frank Allen, was killed in the couple's bedroom on July 27, 2021, while two of her children were home at Maple Tree Apartments at 1405 W. 18th Street.

She is claiming self-defense, alleging her husband, Frank Allen, beat her in the past and was lunging toward her during an argument when she fired the gun.

"She was trying to defend herself," said her attorney Frank Rodriguez during his opening statements to the jury.

Rodriguez said the family was living in South Bend when Mrs. Allen moved to La Porte to leave her husband several weeks prior to the shooting.

However, he said the husband followed and moved in with them anyway.

La Porte County Deputy Prosecutor Julianne Havens said the killing was premeditated judging by notes written by the defendant recovered from the residence.

Havens said the notes

outlined her plans to either kill him or have him fired from his job or arrested.

While they were arguing, Havens said the evidence shows Mr. Allen told her he was leaving but she responded "you're not leaving. You're not going anywhere" then shot him.

"She was planning to do it all along not because she had to. She wanted to," she said.

The investigation shows Mr. Allen was shot in the arm and the bullet deflected toward his ribs and pierced a lung before coming to rest near his spine.

Two of the defendant's children were home at the time.

Deshawn Addison, 16, testified the argument was over a social media post his stepfather found on his mother's computer.

Addison said he soon heard a gunshot during the argument and rushed over from his bedroom with his sister, Cheyenne, to see his stepfather lying on the floor on his stomach.

Addison said he told him to call the police.

Havens said Mrs. Allen told her kids not to call the police and made no effort to call 911 while her husband bled to death a short time later.

Before passing, Addison testified he heard his stepfather's final words.

"His words to her were he did not want to die," he said.

Havens said Mrs. Allen then left to pick up her two other children from daycare and purchase cleaning supplies she and her two older children used at her request to remove

the blood.

Havens said she later asked the same children to help her drag the body to her vehicle.

Her plan was allegedly to drive to South Bend and set fire to the vehicle with the body inside of it.

The body inside a tote was too heavy for them to place into the vehicle, though, and they dragged it back inside the residence, she said.

The next day, Havens alleged the defendant went to Rural King and purchased an ax she used to remove both legs from the body.

He said the body missing both limbs at the knees was dragged outside again but remained too heavy for them to lift into the vehicle.

The body was dragged back and placed into a bedroom closet where it was discovered the following day by the father of her four children, she said.

Havens said Mrs. Allen asked him to come over but it wasn't until he arrived from Benton Harbor that she asked him for help in placing the body in the vehicle.

He immediately left and called the police.

The defense also told the jury there was a protective order in effect against Allen at the time of his killing.

According to police, officers after an extensive search found Allen outside a hardware store.

She immediately stepped out of her vehicle and while crying told officers "you guys don't understand. He beats me," police said.

FRIENDS OF NEW BUFFALO LIBRARY TO HOST FIRST ANNUAL 'FRIENDRAISER'

The Friends of the New Buffalo Township Library (FOL) will host their first mix and mingle, "Friendraiser," from 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12.

The event will take place at the library and attendees will enjoy appetizers and wine while meeting staff and current FOL members.

"We decided to forego a 'big' fundraising event this year to hopefully give more members of the community and opportunity to attend," Denise Churchill, FOL president, said.

FOL sponsors several events throughout the year, including the well-attended Harbor Country film group, community forums and lectures. The group also provides the "little free libraries" which are in a few spots throughout the community. FOL is always looking for new members and volunteers.

Tickets can be purchased at the library front desk and the cost is \$50. All proceeds benefit programs as services sponsored by the FOL. This is an adult-only event. —

STAFF REPORTS

Police catch up to fleeing suspect in tomato field

BY STAN MADDUX

A man driving a stolen vehicle fled into a La Porte County tomato field but it didn't take long for police to catch up.

John Skomac, Jr., 40, is charged in La Porte Circuit Court with resisting law enforcement and criminal mischief, both level 6 felonies.

He could face additional charges of auto theft depending on the findings of the ongoing investigation.

According to court records, a police officer July 24 was investigating a report of a Nissan Rogue being stolen overnight.

Suddenly, the stolen vehicle pulling a four wheeler on a trailer passed him just south of Westville.

The officer began pursuing and pulled behind the suspect after he quickly turned into a driveway.

Skomac of Michigan City was repeatedly being ordered

out of the vehicle at gunpoint when he stomped on the gas pedal and began cutting across the field, according to court documents.

Police said Skomac being chased by the officer was about 150 yards into the field when the vehicle he was driving became stuck in the soft ground.

He fled on foot but soon ran out of breath.

Police said he refused to show his hands and lay on the ground, which forced the officer to strike him with the metal probes from his taser gun.

The electric shock from the probes stuck in his chest and thigh failed to impact Skomac, though, who took off running again until taken to the ground and placed into handcuffs.

Police said damage to the tomatoes from the pursuit was estimated at \$5,000.

Gaedel Day Team Trivia

The Southwestern Michigan Chapter of the Eddie Gaedel Society #1/8 will celebrate Eddie and our National Pastime with a Baseball Team Trivia event on Saturday, August 19 at 4:00 PM at the New Troy Community Center, 13372 California Road in New Troy, Michigan.

A little mix of short stories and small talk will precede the trivia contest. This free event will include door prizes, and ballpark snacks. The gathering is sponsored by the Biggest Little Baseball Museum of Three Oaks, Michigan.

The Museum is located in the Three Oaks Township Library, and is open during regular library hours.

Register your team or as an individual by contacting the Biggest Little Baseball Museum on Facebook, text 269-363-6548, or garry.lange1@gmail.com. — STAFF REPORTS



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OBITUARIES

Sharon Kay Christner 1944-2023

Sharon Kay Christner, 78, of Three Oaks, died Wednesday, July 12, 2023.

Her life began July 24, 1944 in Isabel, Kansas, born to Dale Edward and Augusta Louise Armistead. Sharon grew up in a good farming family in very rural Kansas, where she loved to get her hands dirty and work in the barn with her dad. She was a self-confessed tomboy that loved simple things, had a big heart, and thrived when helping others. These early traits were a template for the rest of her life.

For those that don't have the back story, here's a short brief. She was married three times; first as a very young woman to a family friend's son. They lived in Southern California, but it didn't last long and ended amicably. She probably would've liked to spend more time exploring California, but after they separated, she moved back to Kansas to live with her parents. Her second marriage was to Bob Gray, and they moved to Southeast Iowa and created a sound and steadfast life for themselves. It's fair to say that both Sharon and Bob each did a lot for their community in their own

different ways. They had a son, Gavin Gray, who genuinely was Sharon's pride and joy. Bob passed away in 1990, and while he was a tough man, even years later she would speak very fondly of him when she was a bit wistful. A few years after Bob died, Sharon married Ed Christner, who brought her joy in their early years and many challenges and heartache towards the end. Ed passed away in 2017. Throughout it all, Sharon always worked, and was never too proud to do anything, from cleaning houses to working at the pharmacy drive-thru. She eventually ended her working career as the Deputy Recorder at the Washington County Courthouse in Iowa, a role she found rewarding and allowed her to interact with a whole host of people, which she enjoyed greatly. In 2016, Sharon moved from Iowa to Three Oaks, Michigan, where her son Gavin and his husband Thomas Gleiber (whom she adored), live part time. She loved her house and her friends and her dog and her cat and her yard and her sunsets there. It was home.

All the above is both required obituary fodder and stands on its own as a completely full life of love, heartbreak, and all the intersections in between. But it really doesn't scratch the surface about the woman who was Sharon Christner. She was down-to-earth and generous.

She was smarter than she ever gave herself credit for. She was braver than she ever believed she was. All were welcome in her circle – especially if she knew you weren't welcome in someone else's. She was technically a mom to only one human being, but she had the wisdom, love, and compassion to be a mom in spirit and action to hundreds over the years. Sharon could see you for who you really are, she'd meet you where you were, and she'd love you unconditionally. That generosity of spirit saved a lot of us over the years.

Sharon wasn't much for fancy things or stuffy events. She said, "When I die, cremate me and bury me under a tree." So instead of a funeral, we will hold a celebration of her life on Sunday, October 8, 2023, in her adopted hometown of Three Oaks, Michigan. The details will be shared on social media, through her network of friends and family, and on the funeral home website at Wagnercares.com.

One last thing: Sharon sometimes worried that once she was gone, she'd be forgotten. So please honor her by helping someone who can't help you, welcoming someone to your community who is different or lonely, being kind to an animal, donating blood, telling someone they matter, giving someone a hug, or as she specifically asked, planting

a tree. Do it for Sharon and remember her often.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.



Mary Robinson 1934-2023

Mary Robinson, of Union Pier MI, passed away on July 20, 2023 in Deltona, FL at the age of 88.

Mary, affectionately known as "Mary Hotline", was born on September 9, 1934 in Chicago, IL. She was the eldest of six children born to the union of John and Sarah Dillon. She is predeceased in death by her parents and all her siblings, Geraldine Brawner, John, Joseph, David, and Gerald Dillon.

Mary graduated from Forestville Elementary and

DuSable High Schools; both in Chicago. She met and married the love of her life, Gene Robinson, before moving to Union Pier, MI where she raised her two children, son, Tony and daughter, Kim. Both Gene and Tony precede her in death.

Always interested in learning and discovering new things, Mary took classes and worked in various fields before finding her passion in real estate. She worked for Nadra K Real Estate for years before retiring, but stayed active in her community. Mary enjoyed cruising with her daughter and traveling with friends. It was a rare opportunity to catch Mary at home by the beach. She had a love for life and the drive to live it the fullest.

Mary is survived by her daughter, Kim (Mike) Robinson; her sisters-in-law, Darlene Robinson and Pat Hawkins; and a host of nieces and nephews. We will always carry her memory in our hearts.

Mary will be laid to rest with her husband and son at Pine Grove Cemetery in New Buffalo MI. A graveside service for family and friends will be held on Saturday, July 29, 2023, at 1:00pm. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the American Cancer Society in Mary's name.

HOROSCOPE

JULY 27-AUGUST 2, 2023
AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19



Be prepared for some drama this week. The good thing is it will be dull and monotonous and will have more to do with friends and social groups rather than with your own personal life. Previous liaisons may not be reliable this time around which will be a marked change.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20



Domestic issues or family functions will take a lot of your focus this week and you may not have complete control over things like you did in the past. Issues with parents or in-laws could cause problems with your work or throw your daily routine completely out of whack.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21



Previous interactions or past conversations may come back to haunt you this week. Don't try to deny previous comments or gaslight your way out of the situation. You'll earn a lot more respect if you stick with the truth and follow through with past promises.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22



Just when you thought money or financial issues would stabilize your going to get another shake up. Take any opportunities to consolidate or restructure debt. Times may be lean, but this is when you'll really be able to dig in and rework previous arrangements.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22



The next few weeks will be great for changing your approach in relationships. Don't shy away from differences. Embrace the fact that you are dealing with someone who sees things completely different than you do. Celebrate the fact that you are two distinct individuals.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22



It will be easy to get sucked into negative thought patterns or you may have a hard time letting past issues go right now. Even if things were settled or handled in the past situations could occur that will trigger those old issues this week. Perhaps you haven't dealt with everything.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22



Technological issues and electronic malfunctions could cause you to get really frustrated this week. This is not the time to purchase any new devices. On another note you may decide that you and the people you have been associating with are not a good mix.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21



This is not the time to push others or try to dominate situations. If you do, it could cause some major upsets with your public image. It's better to keep quiet and let people figure out things on their own this time. You can support them, but you can't control them.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21



Be careful when you are out and about this week. It will be easy for you to get distracted by phone calls and texting while driving. You hear it all the time but put the phone down and avoid emotionally charged conversations when operating heavy equipment.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19



Intimacy and close personal relationships could get a little intense this week and may not work out as well as you had hoped. It's not anything either one of you can change. It's just bad timing and possibly the wrong place. Give yourself some space and try again later.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



You will be very busy this week with other people's issues or problems and won't be spending much time alone. You will not have too many quiet nights, so enjoy the down time when you can. If you promised to help someone or donate your time, expect it to be quite the chore.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20



Old habits will be hard to break this week. Be very aware of old patterns and their triggers because it will be easy to go back to them now. Stay strong and know that this is just a momentary thing. It will get easier once you avoid that initial push. Reach out to loved ones.

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2	6	4						7
						2		
					9		5	
4	5			2				
							8	6
				5				
7		8			5		6	
	1	6			4			
5				1				

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (abbr.)
- 5 Thin strip of wood
- 9 Master of Business Administration (abbr.)
- 12 Butter tree
- 13 Rhyme scheme
- 14 Internet provider
- 15 Containers
- 16 Cut
- 17 Plant disease
- 18 Melville's captain
- 20 Pedestal for a bust
- 22 Prison
- 24 Old-style verb
- 26 Amer. sign language (abbr.)
- 27 Mild oath
- 29 Surgical needle
- 33 School course (abbr.)
- 34 Appointments
- 36 Deposed Ugandan dictator
- 37 Rate
- 39 River from Lake Baikal
- 40 Former capital of

- Serbia
- 41 S. Afr. town
- 43 Tuft
- 45 Arabic script
- 48 Tiber tributary
- 49 Peak
- 50 Clear broth (Scot.)
- 53 Among
- 56 Terrorist org. in the '70s
- 57 He (Lat.)
- 58 Unattended
- 59 Dolt
- 60 Affixes
- 61 Black as ink

DOWN

- 1 Revised Standard Version (abbr.)
- 2 Oriental tea
- 3 Tinny
- 4 Ottoman official
- 5 Baby goat
- 6 Aborigine (Austr.)
- 7 Fancy marble
- 8 Hovers
- 9 Husband (Fr.)
- 10 Favor
- 11 High (Lat.)
- 19 Ancient
- 21 Associate
- Technical Aide (abbr.)
- 22 Catch the breath
- 23 United States Code Annotated (abbr.)
- 24 Undesired
- 25 Gulf of Arabian Sea
- 28 Festivity

- 30 Warm spice
- 31 N. Caucasian language
- 32 Slushy ice
- 35 Kemo
- 38 Eskimo (abbr.)
- 42 Bone of leg
- 44 Arrow poison
- 45 Nat'l Aeronautics and Space Admin. (abbr.)
- 46 Building wings
- 47 Health resorts
- 48 Negatives
- 51 Retail liquor dealer (abbr.)
- 52 Long standing
- 54 Blacken
- 55 Algerian governor

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49				50	51	52		53		54	55	
56				57				58				
59				60				61				

If you don't deal rationally with adversity when adversity arrives, then you don't deal with adversity intelligently when adversity arrives later. — Dino N. Fatouros

ATM theft spree suspects father and son

BY STAN MADDUX

An attempt to steal an ATM machine in La Porte County resulted in the arrests of a father and son suspected in numerous other similar crimes in other parts of northern Indiana.

Blake Tweedy, 41, and Branden Tweedy, 23, are charged in La Porte Circuit Court with level 5 felony burglary and

level 6 felony attempted theft.

According to court documents, sheriff's deputies about 12:30 a.m. on July 8 responded to a burglary alarm at Family Express at 4093 E. U.S. 20 in Rolling Prairie.

The investigation reveals one of the men allegedly shattered the front window with a metal bar or pipe.

A tow strap fastened to the

back of a pick-up truck was wrapped around the ATM inside the store, police said.

One of the men in the truck accelerated but the strap gaining tension broke.

Police said the ATM was damaged but not removed from the store.

Court documents revealed the suspects were identified from store surveillance,

which captured the license plate number of the vehicle registered to an address in Hebron where both men reside in separate apartments.

Police said the physical descriptions of the men also match the images of the suspects caught on the video.

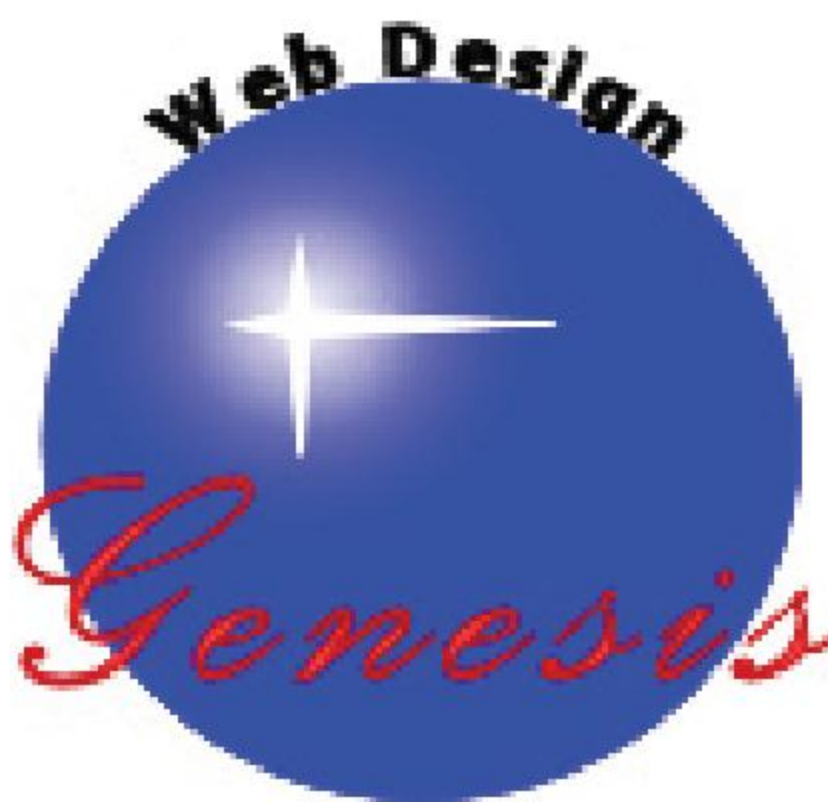
According to Indiana State Police, the men allegedly stole a motorcycle at the Harley Davidson Shop on U.S. 421 outside Michigan City a day before they were arrested on July 20.

Police said the men are also suspected in ATM thefts or attempted thefts in other Indiana counties such as Porter, Starke, Pulaski, Newton and Cass.

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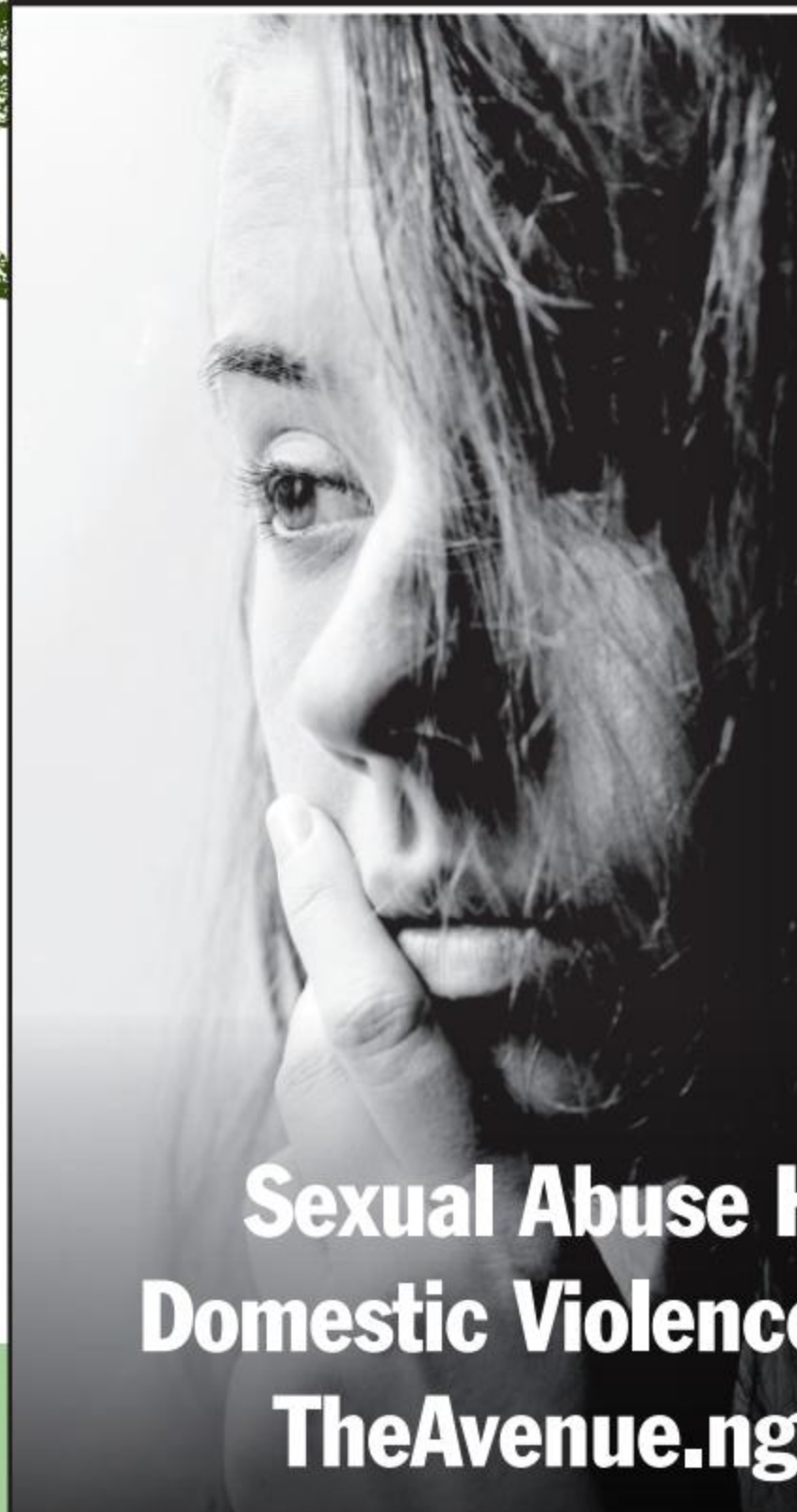
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Michigan City turning up heat on gun violence

BY STAN MADDUX

Michigan City officials are looking at doing more to try and reduce gun violence in a community where the use of a firearm on average happens every day.

One thing being considered is formally asking local judges to keep suspected repeat gun offenders behind bars longer.

City Councilwoman Angie Nelson Deutch said judges not granting bond reductions for offenders with a history of gun related offenses could make a noticeable difference.

“We need to make sure that they understand we are serious about our streets and about our people,” she said.

During a July 24 meeting of the city council’s Gun Violence Prevention Committee, she released statistics that

revealed police since the beginning of 2020 responded to more than 1,500 complaints of shots fired.

Police seized more than 700 guns and made 270 gun related arrests.

Deutch said there were also 17 gun related deaths in Michigan City over the past three and a half years.

“That’s high for a community our size,” she said.

Michigan City Police Chief Steve Forker said steps taken recently to reduce gun violence include providing more intelligence to patrol officers so they’re better aware of who they might encounter in the neighborhoods.

License plate reading cameras automatically notifying police to the location of a vehicle suspected in a crime have also been installed.

Forker said the devices will soon be able to detect the sound and location of

gunfire for a quicker and more effective response by officers.

He said a lot of other things need to change, though, like a culture glorifying firearms to make even more of an impact.

“I don’t think it’s a problem we can arrest our way out of,” he said.

Forker said about a half dozen people were shot during a one week period in late June and early July.

The shootings occurred at three different locations.

He also revealed about 10 gang related arrests were made in early July at one location where several firearms were recovered from officers having more intelligence about certain individuals.

2	6	4	5	3	8	1	9	7
8	9	5	1	6	7	2	3	4
1	7	3	2	4	9	6	5	8
4	5	7	8	2	6	3	1	9
9	3	2	4	7	1	5	8	6
6	8	1	9	5	3	7	4	2
7	2	8	3	9	5	4	6	1
3	1	6	7	8	4	9	2	5
5	4	9	6	1	2	8	7	3

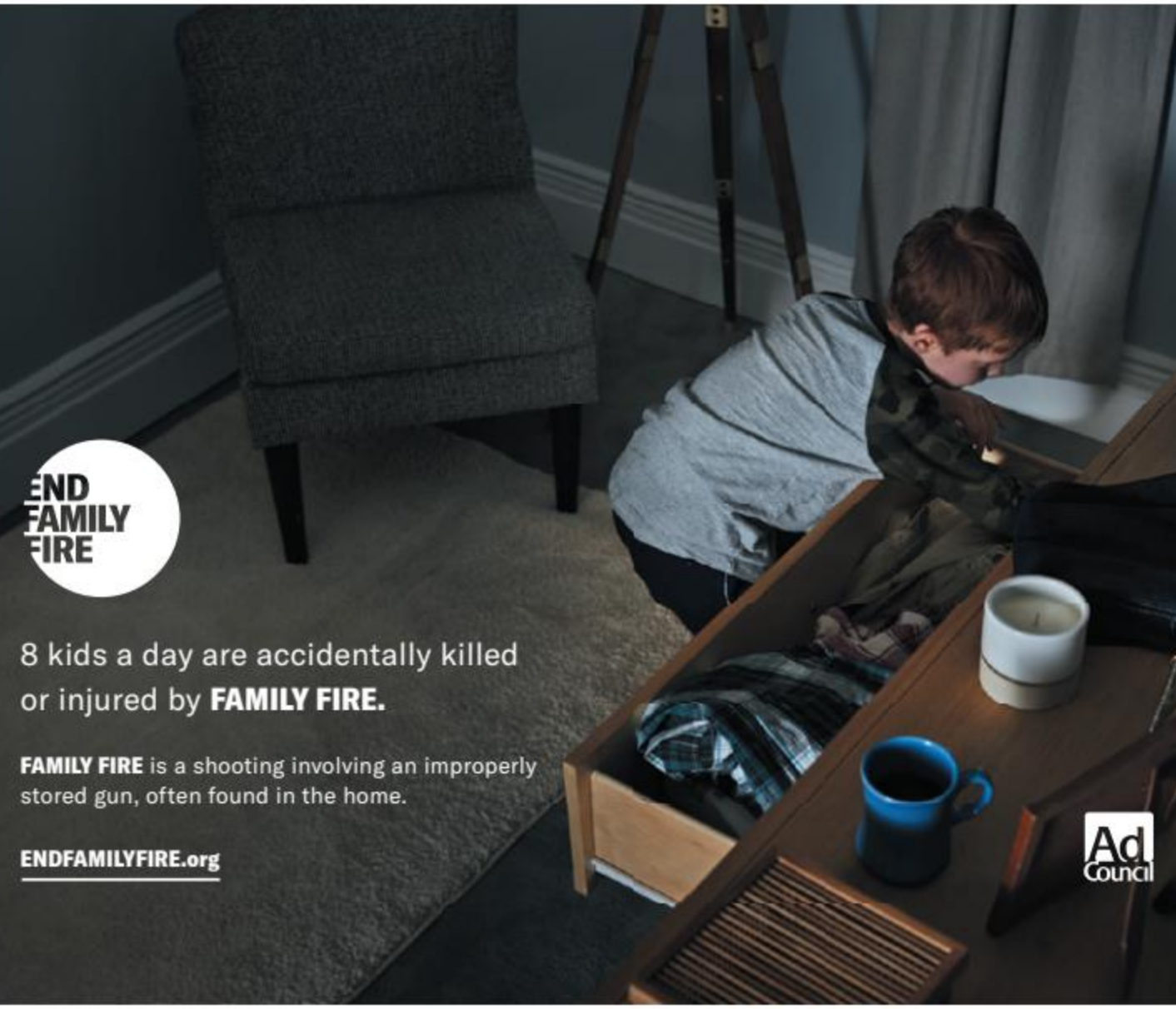
R	C	M	P		L	A	T	H		M	B	A
S	H	E	A		A	B	A	A		A	O	L
V	A	T	S		M	O	W	N		R	O	T
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A	S	L		E	G	A	D		A	C	U	S
S	C	I		D	A	T	E	S		I	D	I
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			S	T	A	D		B	U	N	C	H
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S	L	A		I	L	L	E		L	O	N	E
A	S	S		A	D	D	S		I	N	K	Y



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END FAMILY FIRE

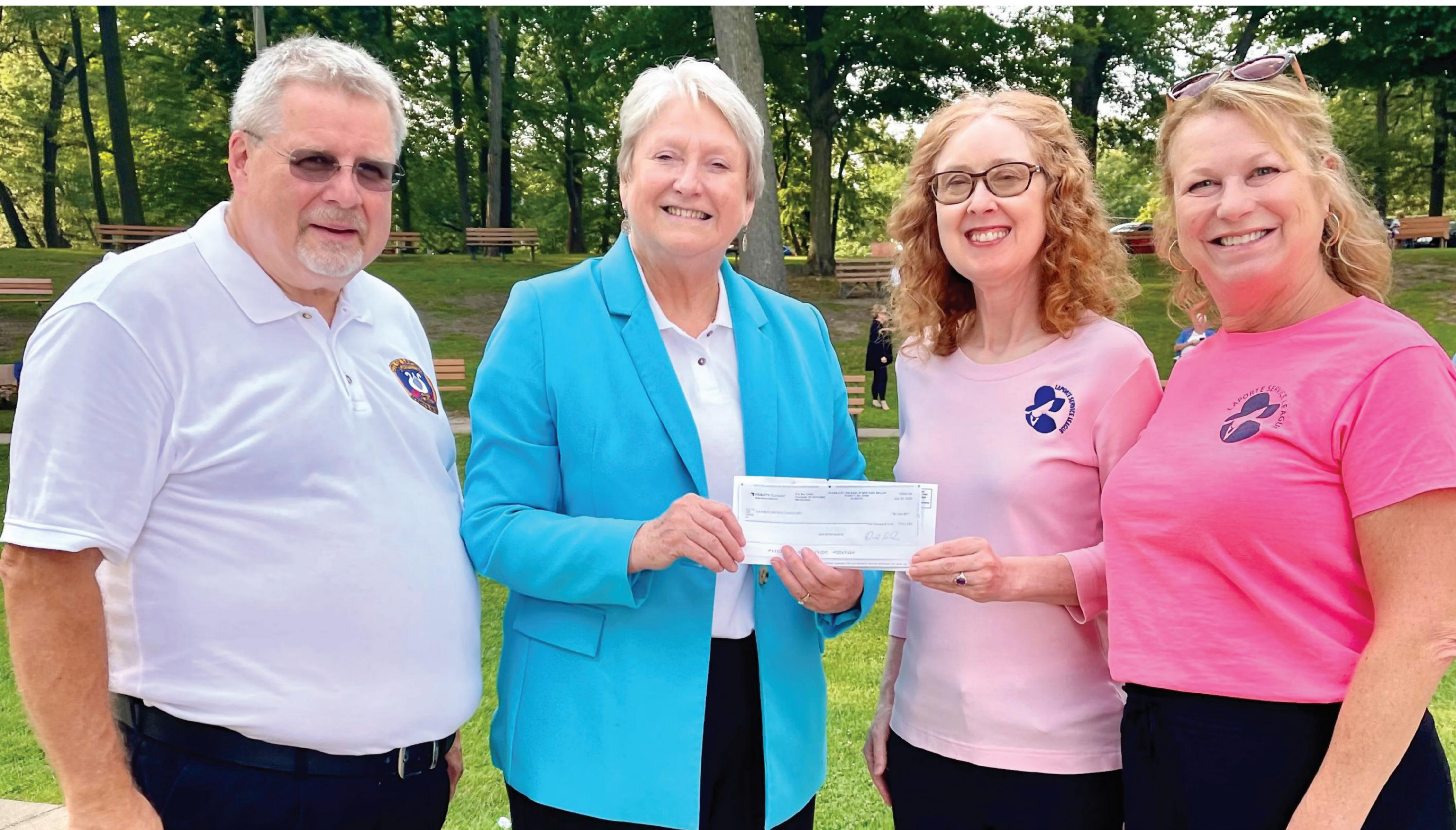
8 kids a day are accidentally killed or injured by FAMILY FIRE.

FAMILY FIRE is a shooting involving an improperly stored gun, often found in the home.

ENDFAMILYFIRE.org

Ad Council

Chuck Steele, Donna Mitchell, Sandra Young and Jaunda Knellers (La Porte Service League past co-presidents)



School of American Music extends tuition promise to Northwest Indiana

The School of American Music (SAM) provides professional-level music instruction to students of all ages with a promise that tuition will be affordable and students who need scholarships will receive them.

In addition, 100% scholarships are offered to young clients of the Michigan non-profit Neighbor-by-Neighbor (NxN), with free musical instruments from Drew's Gift of Music. Since its founding in 1932, La Porte (Indiana) Service League has supported arts, culture and education projects with programming and scholarships.

Today, these four organizations announce a collaboration to extend SAM's tuition promise to students from Northwest Indiana. This overcomes a "border" problem for Northwest Indiana students who want to enroll at the School of American Music (located in Three Oaks) because many foundations restrict the use of their funds to local township, county or state boundaries.

The "border-free" tuition promise is up and running:

1. Apply for music instruction at www.schoolofamericanmusic.com;

2. NxN clients apply for scholarships at www.neighborbyneighbor.org;

3. NW Indiana residents apply at La Porte Service League at www.LaPorteserviceleague.com;

4. For more about Drew's Gift of Music, go to www.drewsgiftofmusic.com.

"The partnership SAM has established with La Porte Service League provides the missing link we need to ensure that we can service music students of all ages and all locations in our region regardless of economic restraints," Chuck Steck, local contact for Drew's Gift of Music, said.

"We are proud to be able to make connections which will ensure that the mission of both School of American Music and La Porte Service League are lived out in real time and service," Donna M. Mitchell, School of American Music executive director, said. — STAFF REPORTS



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